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[EIGHTH THOUSAND.]

THE POPE'S STRATAGEM:

"ROME TO AMERICA!"

AN

ADDRESS TO THE PROTESTANTS

OF THE

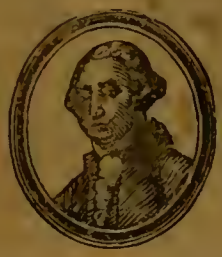
UNITED STATES,

AGAINST

PLACING THE POPE'S BLOCK OF MARBLE

IN THE

WASHINGTON MONUMENT;



Containing also important Suggestions to both the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches in our Country, relative to the Monument.

BY JOHN F. WEISHAMPEL, SR., OF BALTIMORE, MD.

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TO THE READER.—REMARKS TO THE EIGHTH EDITION.

This Address has been issued in pamphlet form for convenient preservation. When you have read it, envelop it like a newspaper, pay a cent postage, and mail it to some friend in the country. The friends of our free institutions will wake up, and aid in the circulation of this and every other warning.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the Southwark Mass Meeting, held on the 8th of March, as noticed below.

RESOLVED, *That this meeting recommend to all the friends of the Protest Measure the propriety of procuring copies of Mr. Weishampel's interesting pamphlet Address to the people of the United States upon this subject, and mailing them to their friends throughout the Country, to wake them up to action, before it be too late to avert the desecration of the Monument, by placing the Pope's block or any other Foreign material in its sacred walls.*

☞ Orders supplied at the low rate of 50 cents per hundred. Two copies can be mailed in one wrapper for 1 cent postage. An order from a distance, pre-paid, containing a 10 cent piece, addressed to J. F. Weishampel, at No. 4 Lawrence Street, Philadelphia, or 264 W. Pratt Street, Baltimore, will be answered with six enveloped copies, postage pre-paid, to one address.

☞ This humble Address has been the honored instrument that caused the first meeting to be held on the subject, which took place in old Southwark, Philadelphia—the birth-place of American Independence ;—and from thence the excitement, created by it, spread, and will continue to spread, till the whole Country shall rise up and protest against ALL foreign intermeddling with OUR OWN WASHINGTON Monument. Every one who takes a part in this protest will deserve to be honored as a true American patriot.

ACTION.—At an immense Protest Mass Meeting of Southwark, held in the Commissioners' Hall, March 8, 1852, a spirited Preamble and series of Resolutions, protesting against the placing of any Foreign material in the walls of the National Monument, come from whatever source they may, and demanding of the Monument Committee the recall of their letter of acceptance of the Pope's proffered block of marble from Rome, and declaring in favor of a *protest block*, if any but American material be used, were unanimously adopted.

Spring Garden District also held a tremendous Protest Mass Meeting, on March 9th, where most spirited resolutions were adopted; and the other parts of the City of Independence will soon speak out. New York, Boston and Baltimore are likewise waking up to the matter; and soon the ears of the Monument Committee will be made to ring with the thunder-toned voice of protest of an insulted and indignant people.

Kensington District has also spoken out in a strong voice of protest against such despotic and hypocritical intermeddling. Measures are on foot to hold a tremendous Protest Mass Meeting of the City and County of Philadelphia, in *Independence Square*, on Easter Monday afternoon. Thus the Protest ball is rolling on, and before the Pope's block can be dressed and shipped, the entire Country will have protested against its incorporation into the Monument.

[*COPY-RIGHT.*]

ADDRESS.

Fellow Countrymen:

Permit me, an humble citizen of one of these United States, to call your attention to a subject that, as far as I have been able to learn, has failed to elicit the investigation of the Pulpit or the Press, and that to me appears to be one of no ordinary import, as touching the future destiny of our beloved Country. It behooves us, as friends of that Country, to watch, with a jealous eye, every effort that is made by the enemies of its free institutions, under whatever pretence, to subvert its government and destroy its liberties. I have reference to the proffer, by the *Pope of Rome*, of a *block of marble for the Washington National Monument*, now in course of erection at the City of Washington, the Capital of the United States, which is intended to bear the inscription: "Rome to America." This proffer should wake up in every Protestant the spirit of inquiry as to the probable motives that actuate the Pope, and the object he may have in view. And let me seriously ask you, in the face of the history of Popery, *Is there no cause to induce suspicion and alarm?* Let us look into the matter.

The first thing that claims our attention, is the inscription upon the block: "*Rome to America.*" Is this inscription appropriate? What, I ask, is the design of erecting the Monument? I understand it to be, to perpetuate the memory of the illustrious and immortal Washington, and to transmit to posterity a worthy memorial of the high honor which the American people have always conferred upon him, as a pure patriot, a good man, and (as he is justly termed) the "father of his Country"—the deliverer, under God, of his Country from the galling yoke of foreign bondage and oppression. And this Monument is to be *American*—erected by the American people—a *National* and not a Universal memorial. But how does the inscription "Rome to America" correspond to this view? In the first place, it is a *foreign* contribution, thrust upon us without an invitation or a precedent; and secondly, with an

inappropriate inscription. "Rome *to* America." Is it not the language of greeting from the one Country to the other? and does our Country require such a greeting from the Pope that an amicable relation may be continued? or does America *need* such a token of pretended respect from Rome—the Roman Power? No! Then the inscription is not appropriate; and therefore the block has no claim to a place in the Monument.

The inscription is now "Rome *to* America." Suppose we ask whether the Pope designs that it shall ever be altered to Rome IN America. It is feared by many that the Papal throne will be removed to America. Indeed there was much talk of it in 1849. If it ever be located here, those significant words will be referred to, by his adherents, as an inspired prophecy of the change of location of that *holy* Power! Then the Monument would cease to be a Washington memorial—it would be converted into a trophy of Roman Papal victory—a pillar of triumph of *Rome in America.* For it is a fact that our Country is being every year more densely populated by the Pope's zealous followers, and his menials; and when we take into consideration that the Roman Power moves with deliberation, and looks far ahead, making calculations upon successes hundreds of years hence, and that it spares no means, nor "leaves *one stone* unturned" to accomplish its despotic designs, we have sufficient reasons to scan its apparent friendly approaches and guard against its encroachments in every shape and form.—We have already one Cardinal, a foreigner, a man who would, unquestionably, betray our Country into the hands of the holy *Papa*, if it were in his power to do so; soon we will have more; for his subjects are increasing here so rapidly that it will be graciously granted as a measure of *justice* to *America!* to have a greater representation in the holy conclave in Rome! Next we may hear of his Holiness flying (under false pretence) "*to* America" for safety; and ultimately he may modestly erect his heaven-on-earth throne in Father Mathew's Cathedral in Washington, near by the base of the Monument bearing the predictive inscription "Rome *to* America." Query. Had Father Mathew an eye to that when traveling through the U. States, often in great *poverty!* who received many gifts of charity to relieve his embarrassed situation, but who in the end

was rich enough to buy the lot at a tremendous price and present it for the great Cathedral to be erected upon it?

> When the great holy Potentate
> Removes from Rome in royal state,
> And "to America" shall come,
> Where else but here will then be Rome?

So far as I have learned no other foreign power has made any similar proffer, and the likelihood is that none will, for the very good reason that the Monument is an *American* affair altogether. Especially do I suppose that none of the Emperors, Kings or Queens of other despotic or even limited monarchies will offer to do so, from the additional reason that it would be inconsistent with their character, and thus perhaps detrimental to their existing dignity at home. Their system of government is despotic, absolute, or, at best, anti-republican; ours is republican and democratic; they all, more or less, play the lord over the people, while here the people are their own lords; they curtail the people's liberties wherever they can, while our magnanimous Washington fought to *give the people liberty;* and when he had it in his power to play the game of the Buonapartes and other usurpers, he proved himself the people's true friend, by not only filling the office of President with a father's care, and with honor to his Country and himself, but by laying down precepts and examples for the future welfare of the new Republic, over which he was the first man that was called to preside—and among those precepts and examples were these: To beware of *foreign influence*, not to meddle with the affairs of other nations, and not to have any man to serve more than two terms in the presidential chair. Their positions are so vastly different to these principles, that the thought does not probably occur to them to send blocks of stone for the Monument.

Such a man—although the monarchs of the world must do him the justice to admit his greatness and goodness—such a man they cannot so signally and perpetually honor (with *consistency*) as to place blocks of stone in the Monument, which is designed to stand to the end of time for the admiration of the people of all the nations under the sun—which shall be to our future generations the rain-bow token of salvation from for-

eign bondage. No, they offer no such hypocritical offerings. But the subtle Pope—*he* passes over this inconsistency, and, as though the world were blind to it, offers to place one there. But he adopts an inscription that shall not convict him of duplicity, and one that shall for the present appear as a gracious token of friendship from "Rome to America." It says nothing of Washington—nothing of liberty—nothing of human rights. And our Monument Committee, like a certain kind of fish, that catches at any thing red, even if it be a bit of flannel on a hook, accept the proffer in great haste, and return thanks to this "god on earth" for his condescending consideration—for his hypocritical contribution. I consider that they had no right to accept it until the people had an opportunity to express their opinion upon the subject. I repeat again, that it is an *American* National Monument, and we should be jealous as to who shall be permitted to place blocks in its structure; and no despots ought to be allowed to do so under any pretence whatever.

Now let it be understood, that I am not opposing the Roman Catholic Church, but the *Politico-Religious policy of the Roman Power*. I have no objections to any church, as such, or all Protestant churches together, or Catholic and Protestant churches conjointly, in our whole Country, contributing blocks or one general block of marble for this Monument. Indeed, I think it would be in good keeping with the Christian character we desire to maintain as a Nation, if they did so. Might they not all, or singly, with great propriety, furnish a block, with the inscription "To God be all the glory!" to be placed above all those bearing inscriptions? This would not detract one iota of honor from Washington. On the contrary, it would throw around his immortal name the hallowed glory of the Christian Religion, in the faith of which he lived and died. We as a people believe that God raised up our Washington to lead us out of bondage, and we look to that God with gratitude, and thank him for all his good providence, by which we have been made and preserved a free and happy Nation. It becomes us, but especially the people professing to be worshippers of that God, to say, in the language of the devout David of old: "Not unto us, O Lord! not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory for thy mercy's sake."

Yes, fellow citizens, I desire to oppose the approaches, under the garb of friendship, of a Power that will, when it gains the designed and desired ascendency, burn our Bibles, bind our consciences, make slaves of us, and put us to the stake, the rack, or the dungeon, for attempting to exercise the free minds with which a gracious Creator has gifted us. It is true, we may not live to suffer these things; but our descendants, not many generations hence, may have cause to lament the supineness and imprudence of their too easily duped ancestors. If I should succeed in arousing you to the consideration of this subject, and cause you to save the Country from the insult referred to, I shall feel that I have done the cherished land of my birth a noble service, upon which my descendants may look with pride.

The effects of this block, if placed in the Monument, will be a mortification to nearly every American Protestant who looks upon it; and its influence upon the zealous supporters of the *Roman* hierarchy will be tremendous—especially with foreigners. They will look through it *at the Pope*, and not at Washington. I fancy I see a foreign papist winding his way up the quadrangular stairs, and he passes the hundreds of inscriptions with but little emotion; but suddenly his eyes rest upon "Rome to America." Instantly he makes the sign of the cross, bows, and perhaps, exclaims, "Holy mother! here is the blessed gift of his Holiness!" When he descends he will remember that inscription, though he should forget all the rest, and he will remember it for life, and ever communicate to his children and others, that the holy Pope has *honored* Washington with a sacred block of marble, taken from the ancient Temple of Peace at Rome. And upon that assumed fact will they base the erroneous presumption, that the Roman Power (dwelling in the Pope) is generous, liberal and friendly to human freedom and human rights. This will forever shut the ears of all the American descendants of the papist against every argument and fact relative to the despotism and tyranny of the Roman Power, and blind their eyes, so as to prevent them from seeing any danger—danger of losing *American liberty* and *human rights*—such liberty and rights as no country ever enjoys when the Papal influence sways it.

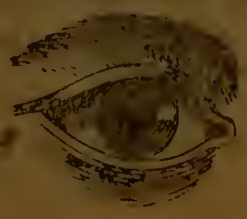
What is to be done? what can be done in this matter?—

Can we prevent the reception and placing the block in the sacred walls of the Monument? Perhaps not, seeing that the Committee have accepted the proffer. But we can unless our solemn protest against it. Let the Protestants every where in the whole Land hold meetings and send to the Committee the protestations of those meetings against that measure; and if that will not induce the Committee to recall their acceptance, then let a *protest* block be furnished by us, to be placed by the side of the objectionable stone, bearing an inscription by which all men may see that we are awake to the hypocrisy and schemes of that designing, crafty, subtle, far-seeing and far-reaching Power, which is ever grasping after the whole World, to sway its iron sceptre, with blood-stained hands, over the millions of its inhabitants.

Will the Monument Committee heed such a protest? I am fully persuaded they would sooner incur the displeasure of the Pope, by recalling their letter, than that of a great majority of their fellow countrymen, by placing the objectionable stone in the building—which has Justice for its foundation, Freedom for its crowning stone, and Human Happiness for its glory. No, they will not, they dare not so insult the American people. I repeat, let the American Catholics put in a block of stone as a church testimonial, if they choose, and so every other church; but O keep the foreign influence, especially of avowed deadly enemies to human rights, and above all, the Roman Power, from desecrating that pure pillar, so sacredly dedicated to the memory of the good and great WASHINGTON! the friend of human rights, and the foe to despotism and tyranny! Fellow Countrymen, in the name of all that you hold dear in this world, let its high-towering column not be blemished by a foreign, despotic, and tyrannical hypocrite's hand, or a hypocrite's gift!

PHILADELPHIA, *near Independence Hall,*
Washington's Birth-day, Feb. 22, 1852.

Let every true friend to our common Country aid in speedily circulating this warning throughout the land, that all may be roused before the Pope shall have placed his block in the Freedom Monument. Be wide awake!—Watch!



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